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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas et el.

Serial No: 09/486,280

Based on: PCT/US99/16972

Filed: February 24, 2000

For: Multi-Purpose Vessel and Method for
Recovering, Storing and/or Offloading Material
in a Dredging Operation

Attorney Docket No.: 29038/10006

Group Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: J. Krizek

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) **March 10, 2003**

) 
) David C. Read

) Registration No. 39,811

) Attorney for Applicant
)

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed October 9, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.(Amended)A multi-purpose vessel for use when recovering material from a bottom surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising:

a hull;

a dredge assembly mounted to the hull, the dredge assembly being adapted to recover the material from the bottom surface;

a hopper supported by the hull, the hopper being adapted to receive the material and including a floor, at least a portion of the floor being moveable to permit movement of the material in the hopper; and